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LETTER DATED 30 DECEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter, dated 26 December 1992, from Ms. Amila Omersoftic, Director of the Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees for the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

May I request your kind assistance in circulating the above-mentioned letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 26 December 1992 from the Director of the Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees for Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

We would like to express our deep gratitude to the international community, which has, under the coordination of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the protection of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), expended great effort in providing and delivering humanitarian assistance to the citizens of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, it is our fear that UNHCR and UNPROFOR are not completely aware of the dire situation which our citizens are faced with in certain areas of the Republic.

In eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, 137,300 people in the besieged towns of Zepa (30,000), Cerska (22,000), Bratunac (20,000), Hrenovica (10,000), Medjedja (7,000), Zelengora (1,800), Orahovica (6,000), Strgacina (3,000), Zvornik (9,000), Jahorina and Igman (17,500), Donje and Gornje Kamenice (11,000) have not received any food or humanitarian assistance.

Also, the regions around Gorazde, with in excess of 80,000 people, and Srebrenica, with 55,000 people, have received only token quantities of food and medicine.

It is important to note that all of these areas are located near or within Serbian and Montenegrin controlled territory, and all attempts in organizing supply missions have failed.

Harsh winter conditions in these regions, which are the least developed regions within Bosnia and Herzegovina, have already caused numerous deaths. The population in these regions, especially women, children, the elderly and the wounded, are extremely vulnerable to starvation, exposure and disease.

With this in mind, the Office for Displaced Persons and Refugees implores the Security Council to advise UNHCR and UNPROFOR of this grave situation and to further advise UNHCR and UNPROFOR to increase their pressure on Serbian and Montenegrin forces to allow relief convoys to reach these 272,300 desperately needy individuals.

We humbly request that these measures be taken in earnest and with urgency, before more lives are lost.

(Signed) Amila OMERSOFTIC
Director